

Drains to Rivers, Lakes & Streams



Storm drains lead straight to rivers, lakes and streams. When contaminants enter storm drains, they pollute our water resources.



Storm Water Runoff is a major source of surface water pollution. Runoff can pick up contaminants on the ground,

including sediment, oil, gas, fertilizer, pet waste, grass clippings, car wash water, etc. By making some simple changes, you can help prevent polluted runoff:

- Fix auto leaks promptly
- Properly dispose of used motor oil
- Don't fertilize before it rains
- Don't top off when you fill up
- Put trash in its place
- Never dump anything down a storm drain!

Helpful Definitions

Illicit Discharge Any discharge (or seepage) to the separate storm water drainage system that is not composed entirely of storm water or uncontaminated groundwater.

Illicit Connection A physical connection to a separate storm water drainage system that primarily conveys illicit discharges into the system and/or is not authorized or permitted by the local authority (where a local authority requires such).

Point Source An outfall from a drainage system to waters of the state, or a point where a storm water drainage system discharges into a system operated by another public body.

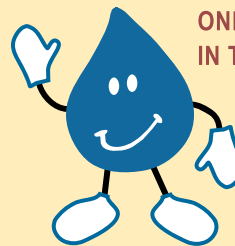
Storm Water Runoff Rain or snowmelt that falls on impervious surfaces can pick up contaminants as it travels to natural or artificial drainage systems or water bodies.

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Acceptable Discharges (per Phase II Permit)

The rule of thumb is: *"If you don't drink it, don't dump it,"* but there are a few exceptions to what you can safely and legally discharge into a storm drain other than storm water:

- Lawn and Landscape Irrigation Runoff
- Foundation and Footing Drain Flow
- Water from Non-Commercial Car Washing
- Water Main Flushing
- Diverted Stream Flows
- Pumped Groundwater
- Air Conditioning Condensate
- Water from Crawl Space Pumps
- Residual Street Washing Waters
- Discharges from Potable Water Sources
- Residential, De-Chlorinated Pool Discharges
- Flows from Emergency Fire Fighting Activities

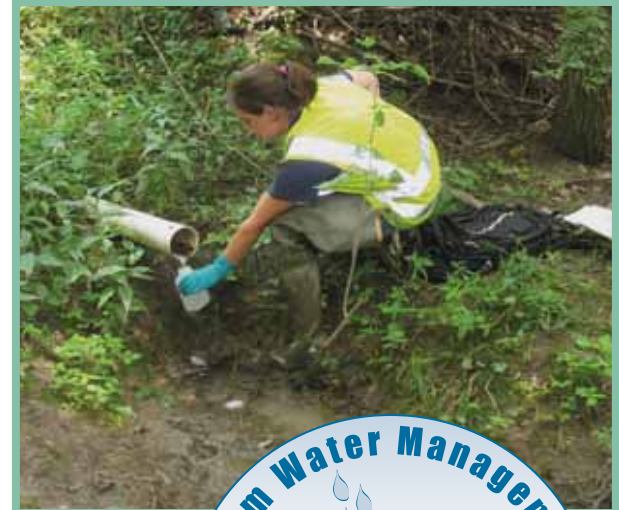


ONLY RAIN
IN THE DRAIN!

Learn More

For additional information on MDOT's efforts to protect our lakes and streams and/or to get involved in local protection efforts, visit our web site at:

www.michigan.gov/stormwatermgt



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Illicit Discharge Elimination Program

Did you know that anything dumped into a storm drain goes straight to a stream, river or lake?

MDOT's Storm Water Management Plan includes a program to eliminate illicit discharges, but we need your help. Learn to spot common warning signs and please...

Report Illicit Discharges!

Report Dry Weather Flow



If a storm drain has flow when it has not rained for at least 72 hours, or if it shows signs of intermittent flow (staining, odor), an illicit discharge or illegal dumping may be present. A team of trained investigators is required to determine the source of the dry weather flow. MDOT has procedures in place to conduct these investigations.

**If You Don't Drink It,
Don't Dump It!**

Report Suds



Suds may seem harmless, but fish don't enjoy bubble baths like humans do. Suds often enter lakes and streams as a result of illicit car washes or pipes from washing machines. Natural foam also exists, but it is very dry and non-slippery, and it does not pollute the water or harm aquatic life. You can help by washing vehicles and equipment in designated areas away from storm drains.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS CONNECTIONS OR DUMPING!

YOU CAN HELP stop illicit discharges! Look for **WARNING SIGNS** (dry weather flow, suds, sewage, oil and gas) and report problems to **PEAS**, your Supervisor, or the Region IDEP Coordinator.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE SUSPECTED

Record the Following:

- Location
- Description
- Extent
- Thoughts
- Photograph

Is it an
Emergency?

YES

Call 911 or
PEAS hotline:
800-292-4706

NO

Notify
Supervisor or
Region IDEP
Coordinator

Report Sewage



Sewage pollutes rivers and lakes when people have septic tank overflow pipes or improperly dump travel trailer or porta-potty waste. You can tell when sewage is present - it has a distinct odor. There may also be black staining inside the drainage pipe and visible evidence of sanitary waste, such as toilet paper and opaque or gray water.

**Four Quarts of Motor Oil
Can Form an
Eight-Acre Oil Slick!**

Report Oil and Gas



If you swirl oil and gas around in the water, it will always re-attach. Natural sheens secreted from plants will remain separate if swirled. Gas and oil enter water bodies via storm water runoff (when oil or gas drips onto pavement) and illegal dumping. You can help by not topping off when you fill up your tank, keeping your vehicle maintained, and properly recycling used motor oil.

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Only Rain in the Drain!



www.michigan.gov/stormwatermgt